

information to be used for said plurality of network devices on which settings are to be made, said plurality of pieces of setup information being generated to maintain consistency; and

means for confirming consistency of said setup information set up in said plurality of network devices.

2. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein said management server further comprises:

means for retrieving meta-level setup information from each of said plurality of pieces of setup information; and

means for retrieving said plurality of pieces of setup information set up in said plurality of network devices.

3. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes tunneling setup information.

4. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1, wherein said network device is a firewall, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to access control for said firewall.

5. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1,  
wherein said network device is a server, and  
wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes an  
access privilege policy of said server.

6. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1,  
wherein said network device is a computer executing a network application  
periodically exchanging data, and  
wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes  
setup information related to said network application.

7. (Amended) A network management system according to claim 1,  
wherein a firewall is disposed between said management server and said network  
device,

wherein said management server includes means for distributing  
routing means for routing settings from setup information for said firewall, and  
wherein said distributed routing means includes means for setting up  
said setup information in said network device.

Please add new claims 10-18 as follows:

-- 10. A network management system having a plurality of network devices  
operating in a coordinated manner and a management server managing said  
plurality of network devices, said management server comprising:

means for generating a plurality of pieces of setup information based on predefined meta-level information that is referred to for causing said plurality of network devices to operate in a coordinated manner; and

means for distributing said plurality of pieces of setup information to each of said network devices,

wherein each of said plurality of setup information is for each of said plurality of network devices operating in a coordinated manner respectively and has no inconsistencies with each other as to operating of said network devices in a coordinated manner.

11. A network management system according to claim 10, further comprising:

means for collecting setup information for a network device of said plurality of network devices;

means for generating meta-level information to be checked based on said collected setup information; and

means for checking said meta-level information to be checked with said predefined meta-level information.

12. A network management system according to claim 10, wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes tunneling setup information.

13. A network management system according to claim 10, wherein said network device is a firewall, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to access control for said firewall.

14. A network management system according to claim 10, wherein said network device is a server, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes an access privilege policy of said server.

15. A network management system according to claim 10, wherein said network device is a computer executing a network application periodically exchanging data, and

wherein each of said plurality of pieces of setup information includes setup information related to said network application.

16. A network management system according to claim 10, wherein a firewall is disposed between said management server and said network device;

wherein said management server includes means for distributing routing means routing settings from setup information for said firewall; and

wherein said distributed routing means includes means for setting up said setup information in said network device.